

### Reservation in ICAR

771. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether recommendations of the Mandal Commission to provide reservation and age relaxation to the other Backward Classes in jobs are being implemented in the selection of scientists in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research,

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to implement the recommendations without any further delay?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) As per Government of India instructions, 27% reservation is provided to OBCs in scientific posts where reservation exists for SC/ST. Relaxation in upper age limit for a period of 3 years in respect of the Scientific posts filled up on direct recruitment at entry level is also given to the OBCs.

(b) and (c). Does not arise

[Translation]

### Gauge Conversion

772. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for completing the broad gauge conversion work of Delhi-Ahmedabad-Jaipur-Ajmer Marwar Junction Railways Line

(b) the reasons for delay in achieving the target,

(c) the extent of the work completed on this project and the amount spent thereon

(d) the likely time to be taken for completion of the remaining work and the amount earmarked for it, and

(e) the alternative arrangements made for the facilities of passengers during the period of Gauge Conversion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The original target date for completion of the project was 31.3.96

(b) On request from Ministry of Petroleum, work on some of the sections was delayed till the Kendia-Bhatinda oil pipe line is commissioned

(c) Sections completed so far are as under :

1. Delhi-Ajmer (444 Kms.)
2. Mehsana-Ahmedabad (52 kms.)

The amount spent so far on this project is Rs 502.30 crs

(d) The remaining work i.e. from Ajmer-Mahesana (423 kms.) is expected to be completed by Feb '97. The

amount earmarked for 1996-97 will be available in the Budget Document which will be laid in the House later today.

(e) State Government will be requested to operate additional Bus Services.

[English]

### Siliguri to Alipurduar

773. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to make an alternative broad gauge rail line from Siliguri to Alipurduar via Domohoni, Malbazar,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be executed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c). The Gauge Conversion of Bongaigaon-Siliguri (275 kms) section will be taken up in the coming years in lieu of doubling of the BG line between Jalpaiguri and Bongaigaon

### Foreign Refugees

774. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of foreign refugees staying in India

(b) the number and name of countries from which they have come,

(c) whether they have been accorded political asylum for Indian citizenship, and

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to deport them to their countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DARI) : (a) and (b). The number of foreign refugees staying in India and their country of origins are as follows

Country of Origin	Number of refugees
Tibet	98,000
Sri Lanka	87,729
Bangladesh (Chakma and Hajongs)	66,234
Burma	52
Total	2,52,015

In addition to these, there are 18,932 Afghans, 255 Somalis and 808 refugees from Other Countries living in India under the Mandate of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.